

REMARKS

By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants amend claims 17 and 19 for clarity and to more appropriately claim Applicants' invention. No new matter is added. Claims 17-21, 24, 25, and 28 are pending in this application.

Applicants thank Examiner Good-Johnson and Examiner Brier for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representations during the personal interview held on July 10, 2003. During the interview, claims 17 and 19 were discussed in relation to prior art reference Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,241,610). As noted in the Interview Summary, Applicants considered amending claims 17 and 19 to recite "scene" instead of "event." By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants amend claims 17 and 19 to recite "scene" instead of "event" for clarity.

In addition, during the interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiners discussed the phrase "articulating components" recited in claims 17 and 19. Applicants have further amended claims 17 and 19 to delete this phrase to provide clarity in these claims.

In particular, amended claims 17 and 19 recite, among other things, that the character models include "a reference polygon and component polygons, wherein no other polygons are included between said reference polygon and said component polygons" and that the processor directly places component polygons "without computing any other polygons." As discussed during the interview, these amendments are supported by at least Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) of Applicants' disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsideration the application in light of the following brief remarks.

Previously, in a Final Office Action dated January 29, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 17-21, 24, 25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,241,610). The rejection of these claims is still outstanding. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

As discussed during the interview, Miyamoto discloses using fewer polygons to represent the game character when the game character is moving at high speeds, except that the number of polygons used to represent the game character's face is still maintained at high speeds. See, for example, col. 14, lines 32-47 and col. 14, line 61 - col. 15, line 2.

By contrast, claims 17 and 19 recite, among other things, that the character models include "a reference polygon and component polygons, wherein no other polygons are included between said reference polygon and said component polygons" and that the processor directly places component polygons "without computing any other polygons." Miyamoto does not disclose nor suggest at least these features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Instead, Miyamoto merely teaches reducing the number of polygons used to the display the game character at high speeds while maintaining the number of polygons used to draw the game character's face. This is done based on the premise that the user will pay more attention to the face and head than the body of the game character. See col. 14, lines 45-47. Because Miyamoto does not disclose or suggest all of the elements in claims 17 and 19, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Each of dependent claims 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 28 depend from allowable claims 17 and 19 and are at least allowable due to their dependency upon their allowable base claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 12, 2003

By: Anthony Lombardi Reg. No. 53,232
for Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com